



Office of the State's Attorney Union County, Illinois

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2011

**Pulaski County Sheriff's Deputy Charged with Official Misconduct,
Obstructing Justice and Unlawful Sale of Firearms**

Union County State's Attorney Tyler R. Edmonds, acting as Special Prosecutor in Pulaski County, announced today that twenty (20) felony counts have been filed against Tara M. Kern, a Pulaski County Sheriff's Deputy, for allegedly providing firearms to a convicted felon. Kern (DOB 05-22-1973) of 301 Dakota Road in Villa Ridge is charged with two (2) counts of Official Misconduct, both Class 3 Felonies, sixteen (16) counts of Unlawful Sale of Firearms, all Class 3 Felonies, and two (2) counts of Obstructing Justice, both Class 4 Felonies. Kern is alleged to have provided firearms to her husband, William A. Kern, a convicted felon, during the years 2010 and 2011, including weapons obtained by her in her official capacity as a Pulaski County Sheriff's Deputy. Tara Kern is also alleged to have made false statements to police and concealed evidence during the course of the investigation.

Tara Kern was arrested on the June 9 as part of an ongoing investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Illinois State Police, and the Union County Sheriff's Office, all operating under the FASTEN Task Force (Federal and State Trafficking Enforcement Network). Kern is currently being held at the Jackson County Jail in Murphysboro on \$50,000 bond.

The Union County State's Attorney's Office reminds the public that charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Media: Please contact the Union County Sheriff's Office at (618) 833-5500 for any available booking photographs.

